(d) Under the PFA Act 1954, States are empowered to frame their own Rules for formulating licencing provisions, in consultation with Central Committee for Food Standards.

Dropsy deaths in the'country

689. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI AKHILESH DAS:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the toll of life claimed by the dreaded epidemic dropsy arising from consumption of adulterated edible oil — mustard, this year, and the number of cases of dropsy reported in the country, especially Delhi and Surrounding, areas, this year, the comparative figures, if any, for the past three years; and

(b) the steps taken by-the Central and the State Governments concerned to contain and curb the spread of the disease and to treat the victims?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) A total of 2992 persons were affected by dropsy due to adulteration of mustard oil and other edible fats this year of these, 67 persons died. The State-wise information is in the enclosed Statement-I. *(See* below). There was no dropsy cases reported during the last three years in Delhi and surrounding areas.

(b) Measures both short term and long term taken to contain dropsy and for treatment of victims include (1) immediate ban on the sale of loose mustard oil as well as those brands of edible fats which were found to be adulterated. (2) enhancement in sampling and quality control by optimising the existing regulatory machinery in States. (3) close coordination between Central & State Govts., to ensure proper testing for argemone oil, for proper clinical management of cases to dropsy in states and Central Govt. Hospitals in Delhi and for ensuring availability at fair prices of quality edible oils: (4) stepping up of meausres to educate the public and traders about the adverse effects of adulteration and measures to contain it "and facilities available for testing edible oil.

(5) constitution of special medical boards in all central Govt hospitals in Delhi to examine and treat every reported case of dropsy. (6) Notification of an Edible Oils Packaging (Regulation) Order 1998 under the Essential Commodities Act on 17.9.98 which allows edible oils including edible mustard oil to be sold only in packed from 15.12.98 and which calls for packers to register themselves with a registering authority, provided they have their own analytical facilities or adequate arrangements for testing samples of edible oils, to be satisfaction of Govt. (7) Legal action initiated by registering cases of adulteration under the PFA Act and the relevant sections of the IPC.

Statement

SI. No.	Name of State	*Dropsy Cases* Commutative No. of Dropsy cases reported since 5.8.98 from Central/State Govt. Hospitals till date	Deaths
1.	Assam	88	
2.	Delhi	2556	66
3.	Gujarat	41	
4.	Haryana	18	
5.	Jammu & Kashmir	08	
6.	Meghalaya	3	
7.	Mizoram	1	
8.	Punjab	02	
9.	Rajasthan	40	
10.	Sikkim	01	
11.	Uttar Pradesl	234 •	1
		2992	67

Hospital Ill-equipped to handle burns patients

690. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the hospitals run by the Central
Government or State Government in the Capital are ill-equipped to handle burns patients;

(b) if so, the number of burn patients admitted in various hospitals in the Capital during the last one year and provided adequate
treatment;